

produced when a stone, the size of a lemon, is dropped into a deep well. If this is the sound referred to by Smythies, my opinion is that the bird does not lower its bill into water. On the day I saw it calling, the bird was on a field-bund, and could not have dipped its bill into the water.

After 10 to 12 'utumb's, the Kora lifted up its head and resumed the *kok-kok-kok* calls. In between, as the head came up, a series of *kluck-kluck-kluck*'s was produced. I think their number was only 5 or 6 at the most.

As the bird had begun calling in this manner some time before I reached the spot, and continued to do so for another 15 minutes or more, I think it must have called without pause for half an hour at least.

No other Kora was seen or heard at that time anywhere in the area, nor did the behaviour of this bird suggest that he was expecting a rival to show up. At night on the 19th, whenever I listened, I could hear its notes. (My house was 300 to 400 yards away from the spot where the bird was seen.) It was heard at night regularly for a few days thereafter, but was not heard at all during or after the first week of September. By the middle of September most of the fields near my house had been reaped and the Kora could have found little shelter anywhere in the area.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE,
CHITTUR, COCHIN,
KERALA STATE,
June 5, 1958.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

[H. G. Deignan in 'Birds of Northern Thailand' (*Bull. Smithsonian Inst.* No. 186 p. 108—1945) says: 'The bird with swollen neck and bill pointed at the ground uttered a series of short notes *owgh-owgh-owgh*, then dipping the head continued with a hollow-sounding *gook-gook-gook-gook*, the tones exactly like that of *Botaurus*. At times the two kinds of calls were interspersed, and without exception the head was lowered to produce the second sound'.—EDS.]

9. PHOTOGRAPHING THE LESSER FLORICAN, *SYPHEOTIDES INDICA* (MILLER), AT NEST

(With three plates)

The Lesser Florican is a monsoon breeding visitor to Kathiawar and arrives with the first rains. As soon as I got news of a florican's nest in a grass *veedi* some miles away, I went there with my hide. The nest was in the middle of the thick growth of grass which

covered the *veedi*. I put up the hide about 12 feet from the nest and bent down the grass in front so as to enable photographs to be taken. As the road was very bad I did not wish to come here again, and decided to take the risk of attempting to photograph immediately.

The female florican arrived a short while after my helper had left me in the hide and returned to the car. On seeing the lens she at once adopted an aggressive pose and advanced close up; in fact she was not more than a foot from the hide and I was unable to take photographs with my tele lens. After this display she went back to the nest and started pushing the eggs, one by one, back into the thick cover. When all the eggs were removed she started incubating them.

As I wished to take photographs of the bird incubating, I signalled to my helper to come over, and asked him to place the eggs in their former position in the open. Immediately he left the bird returned and again removed them into the grass. By this time it was getting late, so I signalled to my helper a second time to come over and move the eggs into the open. The bird did not remove them again but settled down and started incubating, and I did get the pictures I wanted.

I have noticed this habit of rolling the eggs into the cover also with other floricans that I have photographed.

JASDAN,
July 9, 1958.

M. K. SHIVRAJKUMAR

10. WILSON'S STORM PETREL, *OCEANITES OCEANICUS* (KUHLE), AT COLOMBO

Since the compilation of scattered records of observations of Wilson's Storm Petrel in seas to the north of its breeding grounds by Roberts (1940), Gibson-Hill (1948), Serventy (1952), and others, a fairly complete picture has been obtained of the seasonal movements of this bird. From observations in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea, it appears, as Gibson-Hill (1948) has stated, that 'Wilson's Petrel is plentiful in the area comprising the western portion of the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Aden and the southern half of the Red Sea, from June to September, and apparently absent from the southern half of the Indian Ocean'.

These areas, particularly the Gulf of Aden, are becoming increasingly well documented by reports from various voyagers, but